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handel and hayon society

152nd Season
Dr. Edward F. Gilday, Conductor

Concerts 977 and 978

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Symphony Hall, Boston

Friday, December 9, 1966 at 8 p.m. Sunday, December 11, 1966 at 2:30 p.m. Both Performances Complete and Uncut

SOLOISTS

Francesca Roberto, Soprano
Edith Evans, Contralto

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THE CHORUS OF THE HANDEL AND HAYDN SOCIETY

HANDEL AND HAYDN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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America's Oldest Active Choral Society

handel and hayon society 4300 PRUDENTIAL TOWER

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DR. EDWARD F. GILDAY, Conductor NEWSOME & COMPANY, INC., Management and Public Relations

December 1966

Dear Friends of the Handel and Haydn Society:

Every year at this time, more than 5,000 of our loyal friends come to hear the Handel and Haydn Society chorus and orchestra perform Handel's beloved oratorio - "Messiah". These performances have turned out to be perennial sellouts, and a Boston Christmas tradition, and invariably, many supporters of the Society must be turned away because of a lack of tickets. From the Society's viewpoint, this is a heartwarming response, and we are very grateful for your patronage. We only wish we had more tickets available.

A large number of the people who make up our "Messiah" audiences, however, are unaware of the other concerts which the Society gives throughout the year, and the beautiful choral music which is available to them. Thompson's "The Passion According to St. Luke", Mendelssohn's "Elijah", Brahms' "Requiem", Haydn's "The Creation", Dvorak's "Stabat Mater", Verdi's "Requiem", Bach's "St. Matthew Passion", Haydn's "The Seasons" and Mozart's "Grand Mass in C" are just a few of the performances given in the past few years. Some are far more musically exciting works than "Messiah", and all have some sections which make them unique in the choral repertoire.

This Spring, the Society is performing one of the truly inspired choral works - Sir Edward Elgar's "Dream of Gerontius" - with a distinguished English trio including Britain's leading tenor, Richard Lewis, who last week received critical raves for his performance of Aaron in the American premiere of "Moses and Aaron" with the Opera Company of Boston.

It is our hope this year that many of you who comprise our audience for "Messiah" will use the opportunity to hear this challenging choral masterwork which is very rarely heard in the United States. The Society welcomes you as friends and supporters, and looks forward to treating you on March 19th to what we consider will be an unique choral experience.

Jacob Congression,

George E. Geye

America's Oldest Active Choral Society . Founded 1815 . Incorporated 1816

It is requested that there be no applause except at intermissions.

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

Born in Halle, February 23, 1685

Died in London, April 13, 1759

THE MESSIAH

Oratorio, composed in 1741. Begun August 22, finished September 14. Text selected from the Scriptures by Charles Jennens. Produced in Dublin, April 13, 1742, with the composer conducting. In 1789 Mozart supplied additional orchestral accompaniments. Some of these additions will be used in the present performances, but for the most part the 1902 edition by Ebenezer Prout, Novello edition, will be followed. The first performance by the Handel and Haydn Society was in Boylston Hall, December 25, 1818; present performances are the 231st and 232nd.

PART ONE

The Prophecy of a Messiah

God's Promise and Comfort

1. Overture: (Grave: Fugue)

Tenor Recitative

2. Comfort ye my people, saith your God; speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem; and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Tenor Aria

3. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low: the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

Chorus

4. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

The Distance Between God and Man

Bass Recitative

5. Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: Yet once a little while, and I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all nations; and the desire of all nations shall come. The Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant whom ye delight in; behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts.

Bass Aria

6. But who may abide the day of His coming! and who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire.

Chorus

7. And He shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord, an offering in righteousness.

The Message of Joy Alto Recitative

8. Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name EMMANUEL, God with us.

Alto Aria and Chorus

9. O Thou, that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain, Oh Thou, that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem. Lift up thy voice with strength be not afraid, arise shine for thy light is come. Say unto the cities of Judah; Behold your God! The glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.



The Light Breaking Through Bass Recitative

10. For behold darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee and His glory shall be seen upon thee, and the Gentiles shall come to Thy light, and kings to the brightness of Thy rising.

Bass Aria

11. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

Chorus

12. For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

The Christmas Message

13. PASTORAL SYMPHONY (on the traditional air of the Calabrian pifferari).

Soprano Recitative

14. There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And lo! the angel of the Lord came upon them; and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid.

Soprano Recitative

15. And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people; for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Soprano Recitative

16. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying:

Chorus

17. Glory to God in the highest; and peace on earth, good will towards men.

Christ's Sojourn on Earth

Soprano Aria

18. Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold thy King cometh unto thee! He is the righteous Saviour; and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

Alto Recitative

19. Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.

Alto and Soprano Aria

20. He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom; and gently lead those that are with young . . . Come unto Him, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and He will give you rest; Take His yoke upon you and learn of Him; for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Chorus

21. His yoke is easy, and His burden is light.

PART TWO

The Redemption — Man's Rejection of Christ — Man's Defeat in Opposing the Almighty

The Suffering of Christ

Chorus

22. Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.

Alto Aria

23. He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He gave His back to the smiters, and His cheeks to them that plucked off the hair; He hid not His face from shame and spitting.

Chorus

24. Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows! He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him.

Chorus

25. And with His stripes we are healed!

Chorus

26. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way. And the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Tenor Recitative

27. All they that see Him, laugh Him to scorn; they shoot out their lips, and shake their heads, saying:

Chorus

28. He trusted in God that He would deliver Him, Let Him deliver Him, if He delight in Him.

Tenor Recitative

29. Thy rebuke hath broken His heart. He is full of heaviness; He looked for some to have pity of Him but there was no man; neither found He any to comfort Him.

Tenor Aria

30. Behold and see, if there be any sorrow like unto His sorrow.

Tenor Recitative

31. He was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of Thy people was He stricken.

The Resurrection

Tenor Aria

32. But thou didst not leave His soul in hell; nor didst Thou suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption.

Chorus

33. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is this King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is the King of Glory? The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.

Tenor Recitative

34. Unto which of the Angels said He at any time, Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee?

Chorus

35. Let all the Angels of God worship Him.

Bass Aria

36. Thou art gone up on high. Thou hast led captivity captive, and received gifts for men; yea, even for thine enemies, that the Lord God might dwell among them.

The Spread of the Gospel

Chorus

37. The Lord gave the Word; Great was the company of the preachers.

Soprano Aria

38. How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things.

Chorus

39. Their sound is gone out unto all lands, and their words unto the ends of the world.

The Reception of the Gospel

Bass Aria

40. Why do the nations so furiously rage together; and why do the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against His anointed.

Chorus

41. Let us break their bonds asunder, and cast away their yokes from us.

God Will Triumph

Tenor Recitative

42. He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn; the Lord shall have them in derision.

Tenor Aria

43. Thou shalt break them, Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Chorus

44. Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS, HALLELUJAH!

INTERMISSION

PART THREE

Thanksgiving for the Defeat of Death

Prologue

Soprano Aria

45. I know that my Redeemer liveth; and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

Hope

Chorus

46. Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Triumph Over Death

Bass Recitative

47. Behold, I tell you a mystery; We shall not all sleep; but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

Bass Aria

48. The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible; and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Alto Recitative

49. Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallow'd up in victory.

Alto and Tenor Duet

50. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.

Chorus

51. But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Soprano Aria

52. If God be for us, who can be against us? Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is at the right hand of God, who makes intercession for us.

Epilogue

53. Worthy is the Lamb that was slain and hath redeemed us to God by His blood, to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honour, and glory and blessing. Blessing and honour, glory and power be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, forever and ever.

Amen.

BACH – The Passion According to Saint Matthew LEXINGTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Soloists Symphony Orchestra
Allen Lannom, Conductor

Symphony Hall, Boston Saturday Evening, March 4th, 8 P.M. Tickets: \$5.50; \$4.50; \$3.50; \$2.50. (Box office sale begins Feb. 13th)

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Lexington Choral Society Box 312, Lexington, Mass. 02173

(Reservations accepted now)

handel and haydn society

152nd Season/1966-67 — Dr. Edward F. Gilday, Conductor

Dream of Gerontius — Elgar



Sunday, March 19, 1967 3 p.m., Symphony Hall

Contralto Tenor Bass Marjorie Thomas Richard Lewis Forbes Robinson

Handel and Haydn Symphony Orchestra

A challenging masterpiece rarely heard in the United States, Elgar's Dream of Gerontius ranks close to Messiah in popularity in Great Britain. Based on a poem by Cardinal Newman, the work will feature a distinguished English trio, Marjorie Thomas, Forbes Robinson and Richard Lewis. Mr. Lewis, England's leading tenor, returns to Boston after this Fall's triumph as Aaron in the American premiere of Schoenberg's Moses and Aaron. His name is synonymous with the Elgar work through nearly 100 performances, and his featured role in the only two recorded versions of Dream of Gerontius. Marjorie Thomas, who starred in the first recording of the work, returns to Boston after her brilliant performances at last Fall's International Choral Festival in

Boston with the Huddersfield Choral Society, and following her appearances with the Handel and Haydn Society in 1960 . . . The grandeur of this music, with its choral beauty, lush orchestration and rich solos must be heard to be believed. Order your tickets early for this once-in-a-lifetime experience!

Tickets at Symphony Hall Box Office, \$5, \$4, \$3.50, \$3, \$2.50, \$2



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